



October-December 2014
Volume 7, Issue 4

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Micheal Driggars, Mayor



I would like to encourage everyone to join us for our upcoming Pioneer Day celebration in October and Christmas on the Square in December.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Dennis Burn, City Manager

The FY 2014-2015 Budget was approved by the City Council at the September 2nd meeting. The budget maintains our current tax rate of \$0.687134/\$100 of valuation for ad valorem taxes. The budget is balanced in that a surplus of funds exists. The City is able to continue providing the citizens a high level of service without raising any taxes. The budget is available at City Hall for review.



The Soccer Fields along Ferris Road will be improved soon. The improvements consist of scarifying the existing ground, adding 6" thick top-soil, installation of a sprinkler system and hydromulch seeding. Plans and specifications are available at City Hall for review. This will be a competitively bid project and will be awarded to a contractor in October.

Yellow Jacket Trail is a 10' wide concrete multi-use pedestrian walkway parallel to FM 660 from IH 45 northbound frontage road to Ferris Junior High School. This project is being funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Ferris and the Ferris Independent School District. The project will provide a safer way for the students to walk to and from school. Design of the project will begin in October.

The 5th Street Sidewalk project is complete and is a wonderful addition to the City. The project is ADA compliant and includes an improved walking surface, handrails and new street lights.

The Scout House (at Mutz Park) is being renovated. The renovation includes a new concrete slab, new walls, a new ADA compliant bathroom, and repair of the brick surface. This is a great project that preserves a local landmark. Thank you to the 4A Economic Development Corporation for providing the funds for the improvements.

Council Meetings

are held on the

1st & 3rd Monday

of each month

@ 215 w. Sixth St.

Ferris, TX 75125



Kathy Harrington, Library Director

Tuesday, October 14th 3:30-5:30



Join us for **Zombie Zone** At the Ferris Public Library

Children up to age 17 are welcome to join in the fun!
We will have make-up, blood, games, and ghoulish refreshments.

WINNERS OF THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Pre-k thru 1st grade:

1st Alexis Mendez
2nd Emiliano Delgadillo
3rd Joshua Delgadillo

2nd-3rd grade:

1st Stephanie Mendez,
2nd Jennifer Mendez
3rd Alan Delgadillo

4th-5th grade:

1st Guadalupe Vasquez,
2nd Paloma Vega
3rd Maritza Rea

6-12th grade:

1st Melina Vega

Sam Love, Police Chief

The Ferris Police Department and the Ferris Community will join together to observe our National Night Out on Tuesday October 7, 2014 from 6 to 8 PM at Mutz Park, S. Mabel St. at 9th St.

This is the 31st Annual National Night Out where our objectives are to:



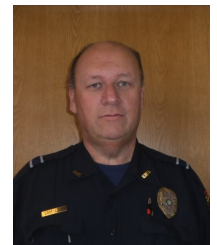
- > Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- > Generate participation in local anticrime programs
- > Encouraging partnership in Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs
- > Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships
- > Send a message to criminals letting them know that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back in Ferris.

There will be games, prizes and food.
This event is sponsored by local merchants.

We also remind you that Halloween night is coming
so please watch for the extra pedestrian traffic in all of our neighborhoods.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season please be more watchful of strangers in our neighbor hoods,
report ANYTHING that is unusual and don't leave valuables in your vehicles.

We also offer security checks of your property if you are out of town.
Call us if you would like us to put your property on the schedule.
972/544-2233 is our non-emergency number.



Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

Fall has arrived with a wonderful reduction in the hot temperatures! But even with some of the rain the area has received and the cooler temperatures, the outdoor fire danger is still extremely high. Ellis County has the outdoor burn ban until further notice due to this hazard level. Outdoor burning is still prohibited in the area. Please remember just because it may have rained a couple of days ago, it still does not mean you can burn. Until the Commissioners Court of Ellis County end the burn ban it is still effective. Be sure and visit their web site for further information on the burn ban.



The fire department is currently working to hire two new firefighters and would like to extend a big thank you to the City Manager Dennis Burn and all Ferris Council members for allowing the department to hire these additional individuals.

As we enter into the holiday season we need to keep safety in mind so everyone has a great holiday experience. Remember to keep holiday decorations away from open flames as well as keeping Christmas trees moist by maintaining water at the tree base. Check holiday lights and devices to make sure all electrical wires are safe. As the daylight savings time change approaches, use that date as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors!

The Ferris Fire Department wants to install free smoke detectors in homes that need them. The target groups aimed include senior citizens and homes with small children. Any rental/lease property is required by statute /law to have working smoke detectors installed and working properly by the rental property owner. I encourage all families to draw up an escape plan in case their house catches on fire. It promotes good family time together and you will be surprised of actually how many of your kids know and may not know about exiting a burning home. Have a plan and practice your plan.

Tim Birdwell
Fire Chief

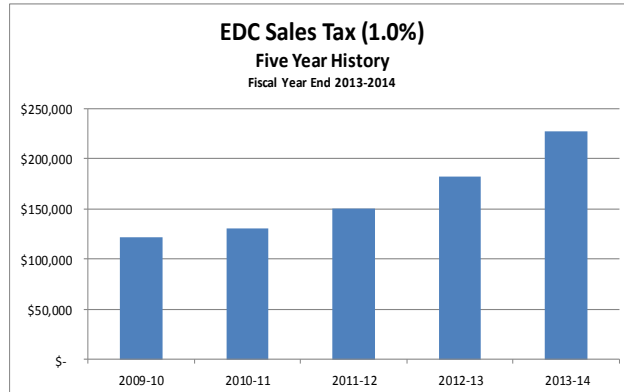


FFD gives assistance to Wilmer FD on a truck fire



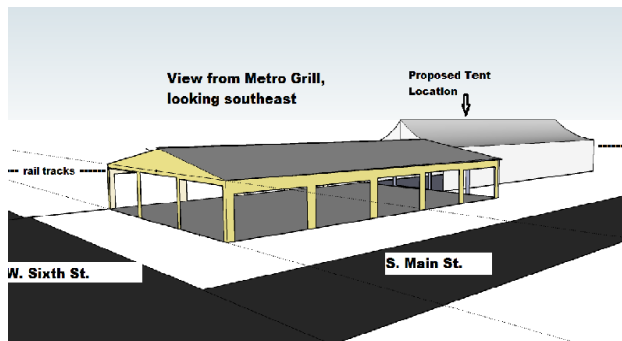
Firefighter Tanner Caffee waves the US flag over I-H45, a tribute to the fallen firefighters who were killed 9-11-01.

Chuck Dart, Economic Development



The newly completed 3,000 square foot commercial building at 3rd and N. Central is ready for sale or lease. The building can be split into three separate tenant spaces, perfect for service businesses. Call Kelly Harris 214-926-7721.

Economic Development Sales Tax collections ended the fiscal year (October-September) up 24.9% over last year. The 4A EDC uses funds to attract, keep and create jobs. The 4B EDC increases quality of life. Examples include the Scout House and the Sixth Street Alley Park. Both boards have volunteers who deeply care about our community.



The Christmas on the Square tent will relocate to the south side of the pavilion, allowing covered space for Christmas crafts vendors and increased food selection. December 6. We'll see some nice changes downtown for the holidays, too.

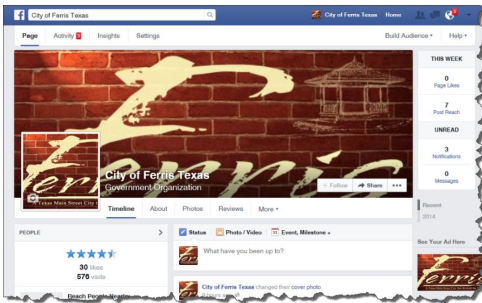
The **W. Fifth Street sidewalks** completed on time. Why so many hand rails? The answer is in the elevation changes. The sidewalks were designed using Americans with Disabilities Act specifications and approved by the State of Texas ADA office.



Year-End Events:

Pioneer Day, October 4
Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk, Oct 25
Christmas on the Square, Dec 6
Ferris Trades Day, Third Saturdays

Doug Childers, I.T. Director



Our City and the next Tech Steps...

As we move forward in the tech area of our city one of my responsibilities is to make sure that the technology doesn't become too cumbersome that it becomes more of a burden than an asset. Over the many years that I have been with the city some things worked as planned and others needed much improvement. The mobile app that was rolled out several months ago fell into the



category that it needed improvement. With that said, over the next month you will be asked to download a new and improved app from the Google Play and the Apple store. The new app will take on a much cleaner look and will be much easier to navigate through. Our new website that was launched a couple of months ago will be integrated into our new app. Also, we have now launched the city's official FaceBook Page. Search for City of Ferris Texas on Facebook !

Doug Childers
Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us
Information Technology Administrator

Bill Jordan, Chief Building Official



Upgrade Upgrade Upgrade! Yes, that is three upgrades. To assist the city in properly administering permits and other city services, the Code Compliance Department has been diligently working with vendors to upgrade our data processing systems. The work has paid off and we are now partnered with three different companies who will help standardize and improve our services to you. The first of these partnerships is Vepo LLC. Vepo will be managing our backflow reporting program. This is a much needed service as manually preparing backflow reports for audits by the state can be cumbersome! Our second partner is Meritage Systems. Meritage is bringing us a new permitting and contractor registration system. This new system will not only prevent critical safety inspections from falling through the cracks, but will allow some permits to be obtained online! Last but certainly not least is our new partner Government Outreach. Government Outreach will automate all the City's requests and work orders, and provide a more detailed recordkeeping platform for code enforcement and animal control applications.

TIP: With the recent rains, there has been a noticeable increase in mosquitoes. To reduce your chances of being bit by mosquitoes, be sure to remember the 4 Ds:

Drain all free standing water. Mosquitos LOVE free standing water. The murkier the better. It is their favorite breeding ground. Check flower pots, bird baths, swimming pools, gutters, drain pipes. Drain or clean out anywhere water collects.

Dress in long sleeves and long pants. Easier said than done in 100 degree Texas heat but the reality is mosquitos only bite skin they can reach. Maybe opt for longer shorts and wear socks and tennis shoes instead of sandals.

Dusk (and Dawn) is the mosquitos' favorite time of day so take extra precautions if the kids go outside during these times of the day.

DEET Use insect repellant. DEET has been tested and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Remember you only want to apply repellants to exposed skin or clothing and avoid contact with your eyes and mouth. DEET concentrations vary from product to product from less than 10 to more than 30 percent. The higher the concentration the longer lasting the repellant.



100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

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-----City of Ferris Contact List-----Cut Here & Hang on your Refrigerator!-----City of Ferris Contact List-----



Contact List

Animal Control	972-544-2225
Building Official/Public Works Director	972-544-2965
City Hall	972-544-2110
Economic Development/Main Street Director	972-842-2923
Customer Service	972-842-2752
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	972-842-2898
Library	972-544-3696
Municipal Court	972-544-2323
Police (Non-Emergency)	972-544-2233
Police (Emergency)	911
Senior Citizens	972-544-3071
Water Department	972-842-2786